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09/877,209	06/08/2001	Jonathan S. Wolf	3186.1000-001	9526

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EXAMINER

PARTHASARATHY, PRAMILA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/877,209

Applicant(s)

WOLF ET AL.

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) *
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/08/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the application filed on 04/11/2001. Claims 1 – 28 were received for consideration. No preliminary amendments to the claims were filed. Claims 1 – 28 are currently being considered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449 is attached to the Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 – 66, 68 – 70 and 72 – 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gai et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,167,445).

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Regarding Claim 1, Gai teaches and describes a network configuration management system (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising:

a policy engine which generates configlets for a selected device (Column 9 line 59 – Column 10 line 9); and

a combiner which combines the configlets to form at least one configuration file (Column 6 line 58 – Column 7 line 10 and Column 10 lines 13 – 34).

Regarding Claim 35, Gai teaches and describes a method for managing network configurations (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising:

generating configlets for a selected device (Column 9 line 59 – Column 10 line 9); and

combining the configlets to form at least one configuration file (Column 6 line 58 – Column 7 line 10 and Column 10 lines 13 – 34).

Regarding Claim 66, Gai teaches and describes a method of accessing a configuration setup on a network device (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising:

maintaining login information for access to the device in the device and in a configuration server (Column 12 lines 41 – 54);

maintaining, in the server, login information for access from a user to the

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server and device access rights for the user (Column 12 lines 41 – 67); and

accessing the configuration setup of the device by a user through the server by the user accessing the server and the server accessing the device (Column 12 lines 41 – 67 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 23).

Regarding Claim 70, Gai teaches and describes a configuration server for enabling configuration set up of network devices (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising:

storage including login information for access to the device, login information for access from a user to the server, and device access rights for the user (Column 12 lines 41 – 67); and

an access processor enabling a user to set up configuration of the device through the server by the user accessing the server and the server accessing the device (Column 12 lines 41 – 67 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 23).

Regarding Claim 74, Gai teaches and describes a system for managing network configurations (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising:

means for generating configlets based on a selected feature set target level and a selected device (Column 9 line 59 – Column 10 line 9); and

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means for translating and combining the configlets to form vendor-dependent configuration files (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 26; Column 6 line 58 – Column 7 line 10; Column 10 lines 13 – 34 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 28).

Regarding Claim 75, Gai teaches and describes a system of accessing a configuration setup on a network device (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising:

means for maintaining login information for access to the device in the device and in a configuration server (Column 12 lines 41 – 54);

means for maintaining, in the server, login information for access from a user to the server and device access rights for the user (Column 12 lines 41 – 54); and

means for accessing the configuration setup of the device by a user through the server by the user accessing the server and the server accessing the device (Column 12 lines 41 – 67 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 23).

Claims 2 and 36 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes a network configuration management system (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein at least one of the configlets is vendor-neutral, further comprising:

a translator which translates the at least one vendor-neutral configlet to a vendor-specific configlet (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 26; Column 6 line 58 – Column 7

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line 10; Column 9 line 36 - Column 10 line 34 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 28).

Claims 3 and 37 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein at least one of the configlets is vendor-specific (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 26; Column 6 line 58 – Column 7 line 10; Column 9 line 36 - Column 10 line 34 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 28).

Claims 4 and 38 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the configlets are generated based on a selected feature set target level (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 26; Column 6 line 58 – Column 7 line 10; Column 9 line 36 - Column 10 line 34 and Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 28).

Claims 19 and 50 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), a configlet hierarchy, wherein a child configlet inherits properties which it does not define from its parent (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 48).

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Claims 20 and 51 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising:

a mapping function for mapping infrastructure data in a first format to a second format, the second format being recognizable by the policy engine (Column 10 lines 13 – 35 and Column 19 lines 3 – 36).

Claims 21 and 52 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising:

a loader for loading a configuration file to its intended device (Column 13 lines 1 – 14; Column 14 line 64 – Column 15 line 42 and Column 19 lines 3 – 36).

Claims 24 and 55 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a device is one of the group comprising a router, a switch, a bridge, a firewall, a hub, an interface, a web hosting server, a DNS server and a virtual interface (Column 7 line 55 – Column 8 line 65).

Claims 25 and 56 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 –

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Column 20 line 41), further comprising: a configuration archive (Column 9 line 59 – Column 10 line 9; Column 19 lines 21 – 40).

Claims 28 and 59 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising:

a reverse-translator which produces vendor-neutral configlets from a configuration file, wherein a configuration is read back from a device (Column 13 line 63 – Column 14 line 23 and Column 17 line 33 – 48).

Claim 30 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the system retains login information to the devices, such that a user desiring to connect to a device must log in to the system, the system connecting to the device (Column 11 lines 26 – 43 and Column 17 lines 3 – 19).

Claims 32 and 63 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the policy engine generates configlets for plural selected devices (Column 7 line 55 – Column 8 line 25 and Column 16 lines 44 – 47).

Claims 33 and 64 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein at least one of said configuration files comprises a full configuration (Column 7 line 55 – Column 8 line 25 and Column 16 line 44 – Column 17 line 19).

Claims 34 and 65 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein at least one of said configuration files comprises a partial configuration (Column 7 line 55 – Column 8 line 25 and Column 16 lines 44 – 47).

Claims 68 and 72 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), comprising: monitoring communication between the user and the device (Column 19 line 63 – Column 20 line 9).

Claims 69 and 73 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising: recording communications between the user and the device (Column 5 line 63 – Column 7 line 25 and Column 18 line 46 – Column 19 line 36).

Claims 5 and 39 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the policy engine generates the configlets using policies associated with the selected target level (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 35 and Column 19 line 43 – Column 20 line 15)

Claims 22 and 53 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising: a scheduler for scheduling the loading of a configuration to its intended device (Column 10 lines 13 – 35 and Column 19 lines 15 – 60).

Claims 23 and 54 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein multiple configurations are batched together to be scheduled for loading to their intended devices (Column 5 line 63 – Column 6 line 26; Column 10 lines 13 - 35 and Column 17 line 63 – Column 18 line 23).

Claims 26 and 57 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 –

Column 20 line 41), wherein generated configurations are stored in the archive (Column 9 line 59 – Column 10 line 9 and Column 14 lines 24 – 40).

Claims 27 and 58 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein configurations are uploaded from devices and are stored in the archive (Column 13 lines 1 – 14; Column 14 line 64 – Column 15 line 42 and Column 19 lines 3 – 36).

Claims 29 and 60 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a first device using a first configuration format is replaced with a second device using a second configuration format, and wherein the first device's configuration is read in and reverse-translated into vendor-neutral configlets, the vendor-neutral configlets then being translated into a configuration formatted for the second device (Column 14 line 64 – Column 16 line 53).

Claim 31 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the system passes commands from the user to the device, and responses from the device to the user (Column 11 lines 26 – 43 and Column 17 lines 3 – 19).

Claims 6 and 40 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising: a target hierarchy, wherein the policy engine generates the configlets using policies associated with the selected target level and its sub-target levels, as defined by the target hierarchy (Summary; Column 10 line 59 – Column 11 line 43 and Column 13 lines 1 – 15).

Claims 7 and 41 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a policy comprises: a condition; and an action which the policy engine performs if the condition is true (Column 15 line 5 – Column 16 line 20).

Claims 9 and 43 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a policy further comprises: a verification clause (Column 15 lines 5 – 54).

Claims 15 and 46 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a second policy is dependent on a first policy, requiring that the second policy be evaluated after the first policy (Summary; Column 13 lines 1 – 35 and Column 14 line 64 – Column 16 line 53).

Claims 17 and 48 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a policy is written in a programming language (Column 8 line 26 – Column 9 line 10)

Claims 8 and 42 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the policy action performed by the policy engine causes the policy engine to write to at least a partial configlet (Column 18 line 45 – Column 19 line 36).

Claim 13 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein a policy farther comprises: documentation (Column 17 line 63 – Column 18 line 44).

Claim 10 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the verification clause is used to verify a configuration (Column 15 lines 5 – 54).

Claims 16 and 47 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the first policy generates and stores a value to be used by the second policy (Summary; Column 13 lines 1 – 35 and Column 14 line 64 – Column 16 line 53).

Claims 18 and 49 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the programming language is Pearl with extensions (Column 7 lines 11 – 27 and Column 17 lines 50 – 62).

Claim 14 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the policy documentation comprises: a reason; and a description (Summary; Column 17 line 63 – Column 18 line 44).

Claims 11 and 45 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35. Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), further comprising:

a reverse-translator which produces configlets from a configuration file, wherein the verification clause verifies the configuration file by examining configlets produced by the reverse-translator (Column 14 line 64 – Column 16 line 53).

Claims 12 and 44 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the configuration is from a running network device (Column 18 line 24 – Column 20 line 28)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 67 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gai et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,167,445, hereinafter, "Gai") in view of Rothermel et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,678,827, hereinafter, "Rothermer").

Claims 67 and 71 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 35.

Furthermore, Gai teaches and describes (Fig. 3 – 5; Summary and Column 7 line 55 – Column 20 line 41), wherein the device login information is maintained (Column 19 lines 43 – 56). Gai does not explicitly disclose that the maintained device login information is

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stored encrypted. However, Rothermel discloses using a manager device to remotely manage multiple network security devices wherein the maintained device login information is encrypted (Column 16 lines 24 – 59) to determine the level of security to provide access to the device or service. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Rothermel into the teachings of Gai to have a system wherein the device login information is stored encrypted that provides access privileges and to block a hacker attack on the network devices.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a.m. To 5:00p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-232-3795.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy

October 28, 2004.


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